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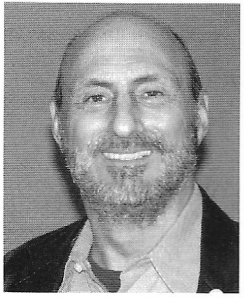
ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM

Tony Capato Earns MMR 327



Tony's interest in trains started long before he got his first Lionel train set at thirteen. You see, Tony was born in Long Island City, Queens, New York, a few blocks from the terminus of the Long Island Railroad on the East River. While Tony was still a young boy, his father would take him to watch the always fascinating loading and unloading of the freight cars onto the river barges for transportation across the river. His first layout consisted of the traditional 4' x 8' plywood base on which the Lionel set was mounted.

Tony's participation in the hobby waned during his college years but graduation as a Chemical Engineer and marriage in the early '60s found him in a rented house in Darien, Conn., that had a basement with a dirt floor. At this time, Tony discovered HO with his purchase of an early Varney "Screwdriver Series" kit of a ten-wheeler "Casey Jones" locomotive. It wasn't long after completing that kit that his first HO layout began to take shape in the basement. He just about finished the track and had the trains running when, because of his early involvement with computers, he was presented with an opportunity to teach and continue his post-graduate studies leading toward a Master's degree and Ph.D. work in engineering and mathematics.

As Tony's involvement in computer technology grew, he concentrated on building his career and raising a family. This put model railroading on the back burner for about 30 years. Then, in 1994, his wife took him to a local modular train show and he was off and running again. He joined the Long Island "HO track" modular group and proceeded to build several modules, some of which won "Best in Show" awards at local train shows. In 1996, Tony was invited to run for Secretary of the Sunrise Trail Division (STD) of the NER, where he served for three one-year terms. This was followed by two one-year terms as Vice President. Tony is currently concluding his third year as President of the STD.

Tony started his work in the Achievement Program (AP) in February of 2000 and since then has been granted certificates in Electrical Engineering, Author, Association Volunteer, Chief Dispatcher, Civil Engineering, Master Builder - Structures and Master Builder - Cars.

Tony lives in Manhattan with his wife, Vera, and the latest incarnation of his layout, an HO/HOn3 multi-deck design featuring the Pennsylvania Railroad's interchange with the East Broad Top at Mount Union. Tony is still active in the AP program working on two more certificates, Scenery and Prototype Models, which he hopes to complete very soon.